EGREMONT WATER DEPARTMENT
2011
WATER QUALITY REPORT
DEP PWSID #1090000

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The Water Commissioners of the Town of Egremont are pleased to present this Water Quality Report for the year 2011

Is Your Water Safe ??

Absolutely ! The Egremont Water Dept. is committed to providing you with safe, quality drinking water 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Important Tel. Numbers

EPA Hotline 800-426-4791

Egremont Water Department 413-644-9614

Water Commissioners

Charles Ogden 528-9037
Steve Agar 528-1626
Poly Lanoue 528-9304

Jim Olmsted 528-0102
Licensed Operator

Jack Muskrat 528-3605
Office Admin. & Licensed Back Up Operator

The Water Commissioners meet on the second Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m. at the Town Hall

Our water system is routinely inspected by the Mass. D.E.P. The D.E.P. inspects our system for its technical, financial and managerial capacity to provide you with safe drinking water. To ensure that we provide the highest quality of water available, your water system is operated by Massachusetts certified operator s who oversees the operations of the system 7 days a week , 365 days a year.

Our office hours are 8:30 to 3:00 Monday thru Friday. Please call for a tour of your facility.

Your Drinking Water Source

The source of our water is Karner Brook which flows from Mt. Washington easterly along Mt. Washington Road. The Town of Egremont owns the land around the "water shed" area of almost 200 acres and restricts activities that can contaminate the water source.

Raw water, including surface water, must go through a treatment process before it is safe to drink. Small particles and organisms such as sediment, algae and bacteria can cause water to take on unpleasant odors and tastes, and sometimes make it unhealthy to drink. To remove this material, it is necessary to pass the water through a sand filter bed, which removes 90% of all impurities. Reservoirs, ground water and surface water sources contain numerous microorganisms. To eliminate disease-carrying organisms it is necessary to disinfect the water. Disinfection does not sterilize the water: it removes harmful organisms. The Egremont Water Dept. uses sodium hypochlorite as its primary disinfectant. When combined with slow sand filtration, disinfection with chlorine has been proven effective at ensuring that water is free from harmful organisms and is safe to drink. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and some infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

The Egremont Water Treatment Facility

Please report all suspected water leaks to the Water Department immediately.

A cross connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a polluted source. If you were using a spray fertilizer and the water pressure drops, the fertilizer may be sucked back into the drinking water pipe and into the distribution system. Using a backflow prevention device can prevent this problem. The Egremont Water Department recommends the installation of a low cost hose bib vacuum breaker for all inside and outside hose connections which can be purchased at most hardware stores. This is a great way for you to help protect the entire drinking water system. Contact the EWD to learn more about our cross connection program.

Leak detection and source water protection remain the top priorities of the water dept. We will continue to replace old leaky mains every year as finances permit. Numerous leaks have been found and repaired over the past year. We continue to work with the D.E.P and Board of Health to protect our water source and the surrounding property. A comprehensive Source Water Protection Plan was done by the DEP-call to review it.

Water Facts

A leaking toilet uses about 400 gallons per day

Required water quality testing Now costs $5,000.00 per year.

SUBSTANCES FOUND IN DRINKING WATER

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring mineral, and in some cases, radioactive material. It can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants - such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems,agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic Contaminants - such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and Herbicides - which may come from a variety of sources such as agricultural, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

Organic Chemical Contaminants - including synthetic and volatile chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants - which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining.

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health

Treatment Technique a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water

Action Level (AL) - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow. **PPB**=Parts per billion **PPM**=Parts per million **MRDL**=Maximum residual disinfection level allowed in drinking water

WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS

Contaminant	Action Level	# of Sample Sites	# of Sites Exceeding AL	Sample Date	Likely Source
Lead (ppb)	AL=15 90th percentile=0.054	10	3	9/27/11 Violation=Yes	Corrosion of Household
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3 90th percentile=0.081	10	0	9/27/11 Violation=No	Plumbing Systems

Contaminant	Level Detected	MCL	MCLG	Date Tested	Violation	Likely Source
Nitrate (ppm)	0.02	10.0	10.0	5/24/11	No	Leaching from septic systems Erosion of natural deposits
Turbidity	0.030 to 0.090	TT=5.0		Daily	No	Soil runoff-measure of cloudiness of water
Chlorine	0.05 to 1.20	4.0	4.0	Daily	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalo-methanes	18.0	80.0	-	5/24/11	No	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acid (ppb)	7.1	60	-	5/24/11	No	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Sodium	7.1	None	None	5/24/11	No	Unregulated contaminants

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Egremont Water Dept. Is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may want to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water may be found at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure

Turbidity-A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for bacterial growth. All water testing as required by the Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection is performed by Berkshire Enviro-Labs and the results are available at the water dept. office. We also test for Volatile Organic Contaminants, Synthetic Organic Contaminants, and Perchorate.